

- Value of building permits jumps 36.5% in January.
- Food service and drinking places revenues inch 0.1% higher in January.
- Post-secondary enrolment soars 14.6% in 2009/2010.

The Economy

- The value of building permits issued by municipal authorities in British Columbia rose 36.5% in January compared to the same month a year earlier. While Cariboo (-34.7%) and North Coast (-0.9%) posted declines in permit values, the remaining regions of the province saw an upturn in building intentions. The largest advances were registered by municipalities in Kootenay (+118.8%), Nechako (+80.6%), Northeast (+68.1%), and Mainland/Southwest (+42.3%) with more modest increases in Vancouver Island/Coast (+16.5%) and Thompson/Okanagan (+11.5%).

Data Source: Statistics Canada & BC Stats

- Receipts at British Columbia's food services and drinking places industry edged up 0.1% (seasonally adjusted) in January. Nationally, industry revenues advanced 0.2%, with Alberta (+1.6%) being the only province to register any appreciable gains compared to the previous month. Saskatchewan (-0.8%), Manitoba (-0.4%), New Brunswick (-0.3%), and Nova Scotia (-0.2%) all posted weaker revenues in January.

Data Source: Statistics Canada

Film and Television

- The province's film, television, and video production industry generated \$412.6 million in revenue in 2010, slipping 1.8% since 2009. Expenses, on the other hand, climbed 1.9% putting downward pressure on the industry's overall profit margin, which fell to 9.4% in 2010 from 12.7% a year earlier.

Nationally, industry revenue rose 7.6% to \$3,313 million in 2010. This increase was pri-

marily due to a jump in revenues generated in Ontario (+18.0%). Data Source: SC Cat. no. 87-010-X

Engineering Services

- Revenues earned by British Columbia's engineering services industry inched 0.5% higher to \$2,917 million in 2010. Meanwhile, despite a slight increase (+0.6%) in salaries, wages, and benefits, total expenses dipped 0.9%, boosting the profit margin for the industry to 11.1% from 9.9% a year earlier.

Nationally, revenues generated by engineering services climbed 5.9% in 2010, with Alberta (+8.5%), Quebec (+6.2%) and Ontario (+5.0%) posting the most significant increases.

Data Source: SC Cat. no. 63-258-X

Post-secondary Education

- Enrolment at British Columbia's public colleges and universities jumped 14.6% during the 2009/2010 academic year, the largest annual increase recorded since 1992/1993¹. While the number of students starting full-time studies dipped 1.1%, part-time enrolment soared (+39.7%). Growth in enrolment was higher among men (+17.3%) than women (+12.7%). However women (58%) continued to outnumber men (42%) by a considerable margin.

One-in-nine (11%) enrollees in 2009/2010 were non-Canadian, a proportion that has climbed significantly since the 1990s when international students accounted for less than 3% of total enrolment. Data Source: Statistics Canada

¹ The first year for which comparable enrolment data are available.

Did you know...

According to parents, children in B.C. watch an average of 72 minutes of television daily without supervision; 62% admit to being concerned about program contents.

Data Source: Ipsos Canada

- **The number of graduates from the province's public universities rose 10.4% in 2009/2010, marking back-to-back double-digit increase in the number of university graduates.** This was largely driven by significant growth (+18.1%) in the number of students graduating from business, management, and public administration programs. Other large program groups, such as health, parks, recreation, and fitness (+11.6%) and social sciences and law (+9.4%), also contributed to the overall increase.

Colleges in B.C. graduated 19,474 students in 2009/2010, an increase of approximately one-third compared to the previous year. The number of students graduating from architecture, engineering, and related technologies programs tripled in 2009/2010, and was responsible for a significant share of the overall increase in total graduation from colleges.

Data Source: Statistics Canada

Volunteering

- **Roughly half (50%) of British Columbians aged 15 years and older donated time to charitable or not-for-profit organizations in 2010.** An average of 178 hours were spent on volunteering duties, with those aged 65 year and older contributing the most (301 hours) on average and British Columbians aged 25 to 34 years giving the least (99 hours) to volunteer efforts. People holding either a post-secondary diploma or university degree accounted for 64% of total volunteer hours.

Nationally, the volunteer rate was 47%, with Saskatchewanians (58%) having the highest rate of volunteerism, followed by those in P.E.I. (56%) and Alberta (55%).

Data Source: SC Cat. no. 89-649-X

Divorce

- **In 2010/2011, there were 10,832 divorce cases initiated in British Columbia, an increase of 3.5% compared to the previous year.** Despite the increase in 2010/2011, the number of new divorce cases has been trending downward.

Compared to 2006/2007, the number of divorce cases initiated has fallen 3.9%. The 30-year divorce rate in B.C. was 37%, slightly below the national average (41%). Provincially, divorce rates ranged from a low of 25% in Newfoundland and Labrador to a high of 46% in Alberta.

Data Source: SC Cat. no. 85-002-X

The Nation

- **Canada's real gross domestic product (GDP) rose marginally (+0.1% seasonally adjusted) in January.** The slight improvement in GDP was mainly due to expanded economic output by the manufacturing sector (+0.7%), with advances in utilities (+1.1%), wholesale trade (+0.3%) and finance, insurance, and real estate (+0.2%) also contributing to overall growth. Nearly offsetting these gains were slowdowns in the arts, entertainment, and recreation (-0.9%), agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting (-0.9%) and mining, and oil & gas extraction (-0.5%) sectors.
- **Spending by tourists in Canada climbed 0.9% (seasonally adjusted) during the fourth quarter of 2011, registering a tenth straight quarterly increase since the second half of 2009.²** Demand for goods and services purchased by tourists advanced for both Canadian (+1.0%) and non-Canadian (+0.8%) travellers.

Higher expenditures related to recreation and entertainment (+2.6%) and air transportation (+1.6%) accounted for much of the increase. Spending on food and beverages (+0.8%) and accommodation services (+0.5%) was also higher. Meanwhile payments made for passenger rail (-4.8%), travel agency (-1.1%), and interurban bus (-0.9%) services were lower.

Data Source: SC Cat. no. 13-009-X

*Infoline Issue: 12-13
March 30, 2012*

² Tourism expenditure data here are measured in constant 2002 dollars, thereby accounting for inflationary effects over time.



Email transmission information service from BC Stats



also on the Internet at www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca or choose **RSS**

BC at a glance . . .

POPULATION (thousands)		% change on
	Jan 1/2012	one year ago
BC	4,597.9	1.0
Canada	34,670.4	1.1
GDP and INCOME (Released Nov 8)		% change on
	2010	one year ago
(BC - at market prices)		
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) (\$ millions)	203,147	5.9
GDP (\$ 2002 millions)	167,140	3.0
GDP (\$ 2002 per Capita) (reflects revised pop)	36,899	1.4
Personal Disposable Income (\$ 2002 per Capita)	26,166	2.2
TRADE (\$ millions, seasonally adjusted)		% change on
		prev. month
Manufacturing Shipments - Jan 2012	3,161	2.0
Merchandise Exports - Jan 2012	2,641	-4.8
Retail Sales - Jan 2012	5,047	0.3
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX		% change on
	one year ago	12-month avg % change
(all items - Feb 2012)		
BC	1.7	2.3
Vancouver	2.1	2.2
Victoria	1.6	2.1
Canada	2.6	3.0
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)		% change on
	Feb 2012	prev. month
(seasonally adjusted)		
Jobs Created (-Lost) - BC	9.1	
Labour Force - BC	2,472.4	0.4
Employed - BC	2,300.8	0.4
Unemployed - BC	171.5	0.6
		Jan 2012
Unemployment Rate - BC (percent)	6.9	6.9
Unemployment Rate - Canada (percent)	7.4	7.6
INTEREST RATES (percent)		
	Mar 28/2012	Mar 30/2011
Prime Business Rate	3.00	3.00
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	3.20	3.50
- 5 year	5.24	5.34
US-CANADA EXCHANGE RATE		
	Mar 28/2012	Mar 30/2011
(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn \$ per US \$	0.9984	0.9714
(closing rate) US \$ per Cdn \$	1.0021	1.0295
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE		% change on
	Feb 2012	one year ago
(industrial aggregate - dollars)		
BC	860.57	3.8
Canada	855.69	2.8

SOURCES:

Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade,
Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate } Statistics
Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics
For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see www.bankofcanada.ca

New RSS Feeds From BC Stats

BC Stats has published several new RSS feeds, including: Aboriginal Peoples, Business and Industry, Census, Economic Statistics, Education, Environment, Geography and Mapping, Income, Pensions, Spending and Wealth, International and Interprovincial Trade, Labour, Population, Demography and Immigration, and more.

<http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/Help/RSSFeeds.aspx>

The 2011 National Household Survey

Release dates have been set as:

May 8, 2013

- Immigration; Citizenship;
- Place of birth; Language;
- Ethnic origin; Visible minorities;
- Religion; Aboriginal Peoples

June 26, 2013

- Labour; Education;
- Place of work; Commuting to work;
- Mobility and migration;
- Language of work

August 14, 2013

- Income; Earnings; Housing;
- Shelter costs

<http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/nhs-enm/index-eng.cfm>

Census 2011 Fast Facts

According to the 2011 census, compared to other provinces, BC's population growth was second only to Alberta over the 2006 to 2011 period. In May of 2011, the census counted 4,400,057 persons in BC, up 286,570 (+7.0%) from the 2006 count. Read more on the 2011 Census page:

<http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/Census/2011Census.aspx>

Released this week by BC Stats

- Quarterly Regional Statistics, 4th Quarter 2011

Next week

- Business Indicators, March 2012
- Labour Force Statistics, March 2012
- Earnings & Employment Trends, March 2012

